

I am writing in opposition to the proposed "Broadcast Flag" on digital TV content. As I understand it, this technology will absolutely prevent home users from recording or otherwise re-using broadcast digital TV content, in the name of protecting the proprietary rights of the content owners.

It seems to me that such technology is overly-broad, in that it will make impossible any "fair use" recording of protected broadcasts. Such recording has repeatedly been upheld by the courts, including by the Supreme Court with respect to VCR recording. In my opinion, the FCC does not have the power to take away a long-standing right of all consumers for the purpose of expanding the protection of the proprietary rights of content providers. I believe that you must instead at least make an exhaustive study of all less-intrusive forms of protection of proprietary rights before taking an action that will substantially impair the "fair use" rights of all citizens.

Sincerely,
Walter Schumacher